Statement

Name of the Supplier Country		Item Imported	Value of C. T.
P.E.C.	(6) FDSP, Yugoslavia UNIS-KOMERE	To be decided	US $ 10.000 million
	(7) Signal, Holland . .	To be decided	US $ 23.000 million
MMTC	(8) MDK, Germany . .	MCP	US $ 18.720 million
	(9) K & S, Germany . .	MOP	US $ 14.650 million
	(10) CANPOTEX, Canada	MOP	US $ 14.650 million
	(11) Seminole, USA . .	DAP	US $ 5.620 million
	(12) Phoschem, USA .	DAP	US $ 12.220 million

Balance of Trade Position

1272. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was India's balance of Trade position at the end of the financial year 1992-93 :

(b) how does it compare with the corresponding figures at the close of the last three financial years; and

(c) what concrete steps are contemplated to achieve positive balance of trade figure ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) India's trade deficit figures during 1992-93 as compared to the last years are as under:

Trade Deficit

Year	(Rs. Crores)	(US $ Million)
1989-90 . .	7731	4643
1990-91 . .	10640	5930
1991-92 . .	3809	1546
1992-93 . .	9687	3345

During 1991-92, drastic import compression was resorted to because of the balance of payments crisis. Trade deficit during 1992-93 was less than that during 1990-91 and 1989-90.

(c) Concrete steps taken to achieve a positive balance of trade figure include a number of export promotional measures such as introduction of the unified market determined exchange rate, revision of Export-Import Policy for 1992—97, simplification and streamlining of policy and procedures, reduction in the interest rate on rupee export credit, specific directions to banks to increase availability of credit to the export sector and strengthening of infrastructural facilities through greater involvement of State Governments besides specific measures linking imports to export activity. Exports are being given a national priority status and inter-Ministerial meetings are being held to ensure prompt action on all export-related activities. Emphasis is being placed on improving quality to increase competitiveness and encourage production specifically for exports.

Criteria for Estimates of Foreign Exchange Earnings

1273. DR. ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the assumptions under which estimates of the potential foreign exchanges from the export of agricultural items and their

item-wise breakdown that have been worked out in official projections ;

(b) the likely export volumes and export prices for the project projected export items ; and

(c) whether Government have conducted any detailed exercise on the domestic price implications of such projected export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED). (a) to (c) The export targets for 1993-94 for agricultural exports are based on past performance and an anticipated rise in exports due to the recent libralisation policy of the Govt. They were finalised after discussions with various Commodity Boards, export Promotion Councils and trade associations. For the year 1993-94, a target of US $ 2255 million has been fixed for the export of agricultural commodities. This is likely to be achieved. No targets have been fixed in volume terms. The strategy of the Government is to allow the export of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise our food security.

Bilateral Investment Guarantee Agreements

1274. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sign a bilateral investment guarantee agreements with USA, UK, Germany and south Korea in the near future;

(b) if so, the total amount of investment expected from these countries; and

(c) the areas in which the investments are likely to be made by these countries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government of India is in the process of devising a model Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement. The Issue of entering into a Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement with various countries will be decided thereafter.

(b) and (c) While the signing of BIPT is expected to provide an enabling environment for attracting investment, it will not be possible either to quantify the levels or specify areas of investment by the foreign countries as these would depend on the foreign investors perceptions.

बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों द्वारा औषधियों का आयात

1275. श्री अजित जोगी : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1991-92 के दौरान बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों ने कुल कितने मूल्य की औषधियों का आयात किया है, और

(ख) क्या बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों द्वारा ये आयात मौजूदा पेटेंटों से संबंधित समझौते के अनुसार दिया जाता है ?

नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) :

(क) और (ख) बहु-राष्ट्रीय कंपनियों द्वारा आयात की गई औषधियों के आंकड़े नहीं रखे जाते हैं।

Export of Books

1276. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) nature of books being exported from the country ;

(b) quantum of books exported during the last three years, year-wise and the countries importing them ;

(c) problems encountered in their export; and